

Sustainable Cooling Towards a Cool COP28:

CEM Preparatory Meeting *Rio de Janeiro*



March 21, 2023

0800 – 0900 (BST)

Summary Report

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- We need cooling to keep people healthy, vaccines stable, food nutritious, energy supply stable, economies productive, and environment clean. In a warming world, cooling is not a luxury but a necessity.
- Cooling is one of the most critical blind spots in today's energy debate and one of the biggest contributors to global warming. If left unchecked, emissions from cooling are expected to double by 2030 and triple by 2050, driven by heat waves, population growth, urbanization, and a growing middle class (IEA 2022).
- COP28 is an opportunity to increase ambition and bring forward commitments to action on cooling.
- To ensure adequate attention – and action – on global sustainable cooling, the UAE Presidency seeks to announce a Global Cooling Pledge at COP28 to recognize ambitions targeted by cooling champions around the world.
- The Pledge seeks to facilitate and encourage state and non-state actors to co-develop and sign on to higher ambitions to enable access, adaptation, resilience and mitigation as they transition to sustainable cooling solutions.
- Five impact areas will be championed under this pledge including: nature-based solutions, super-efficient technologies, food, and vaccine cold chains, building codes, and national cooling action plans.
- Coordinated international action to promote sustainable cooling solutions can help the world avoid the equivalent of 4-8 years of total annual GHG emissions by 2050 (UNEP/IEA 2020).

CONTEXT OF THE SESSION

The consultation aimed to build momentum for global action and increased ambition for sustainable cooling solutions. Countries including India and the US were invited to present their actions and progress on sustainable cooling to strengthen a shared understanding and awareness among CEM countries of the need for - and impact of -

sustainable cooling solutions within the global climate agenda. Countries were also invited to share their perspectives of the Global Cooling Pledge prepared and consulted by the UAE ahead of COP28.

In doing so, the event contributed to the mobilization of CEM countries to join the Global Cooling Pledge and strengthen the ambition of sustainable cooling solutions at COP28.

REPORT OF THE SESSION

Dane McQueen – Director of International Programs and Partnership, COP28 UAE — extended a warm welcome. He outlined the UAE Presidency's vision for greater ambition in sustainable cooling at COP28, including the Global Cooling Pledge and 'Cool COP Menu of Actions'.

There are three outcomes envisioned by the COP28 Presidency on cooling: (1) Cooling input in the Global Climate Stocktake; (2) Commitments to concrete measurable actions at COP28 including the Global Cooling Pledge and support announcements; and (3) a high-level moment at COP28 comprising a Cooling Leadership Segment (ministerial + non-state leaders), a 'Cool' day, and technology demonstrations.

Gustavo Manez Gomis – Head Brazil Office, UNEP and Cool Coalition Representative — delivered a presentation on the status of the Global Cooling Pledge and outlined momentum towards COP28.

The roadmap to COP28 comprises UAE announcing cooling as part of their official COP28 programme announcement in Bonn in June. There will also be an announcement at the G20 Ministerial Meeting/ 14th Clean Energy Ministerial on July 22nd and post-July there will be increased focus on commitments to the Pledge.

Shri Abhay Bakre - Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Government of India — highlighted sustainable cooling as a multipurpose tool for adaptation, mitigation, food security, from an Indian perspective. India, as G20 President, is committed to supporting UAE's COP28 Presidency.

Sustainable cooling is very important to developing economies like India: demand for cooling has already doubled in the past 10 years and will continue to increase. India's Cooling Action Plan provides an integrated vision towards cooling across sectors encompassing reduction of cooling demand, refrigerant transition, enhancing energy efficiency and better technology options.

Neighboring economies, such as Bangladesh and Bhutan, have sought support from India resulting in work on a common market with common standards.

Ian D. Lloyd - Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of State - highlighted the US vision of sustainable cooling, emphasizing the role of MEPS and the domestic and international opportunities with energy efficiency and the Kigali Agreement.

At CEM/MI Pitt, John Kerry highlighted the importance of cooling. Combination of heat waves, increase in the middle class, and urbanization means that urban space cooling will take increased importance.

He noted four points of importance. Firstly, the link to Montreal Protocol multilateral funds, noting the importance of the vehicle. There has been reluctance to address efficiency through the Fund, but the US will support efforts on that. Secondly, in line with domestic US policy, it is important to not be too prescriptive to allow for flexibility in individual countries. Thirdly, with the definition of sustainable cooling, ultra-low GWP should be defined as below 5. Finally, the US stressed the importance of making the link to the Kigali Amendment.

MODERATED DISCUSSION

Brian Dean - Head of Energy Efficiency and Cooling, SEforALL – and Gustavo Manez Gomis - Head, Brazil Office, UNEP, Cool Coalition Representative - chaired a moderated discussion around feedback on the Global Cooling Pledge. Participants were prompted with the following questions:

- **What are the most critical areas for action to accelerate a transition towards sustainable cooling? Are they captured in the pledge?**
- **What is the collective target that we need - is access and cooling emission demand reduction sufficient. Should we add power demand reduction as a collective target?**
- **What should we aim for in terms of collaborative outcomes that can support the implementation of the Global Cooling Pledge commitments? Should we focus on mobilizing finance, encouraging business model innovation, or a more consolidated support offer for the technical assistance?**

CEM Secretariat and the UK proposed aligning the Global Cooling Pledge to the **CEM SEAD Initiative**. The SEAD Initiative works to rapidly accelerate the energy efficiency of appliances. Through CEM SEAD, Saudi Arabia has put out a call to action to build climate action pathways for cooling. The UK – one of the leading funders of SEAD - suggested reviewing how a SEAD Call for Action to double energy efficiency could be incorporated within the Pledge.

CEM Secretariat and Mission Innovation noted that cooling is an important topic for CEM countries, and this has been highlighted by there having been rounds of cooling discussions throughout the years at CEM.

Global Covenant of Mayors and the Rocky Mountain Institute/ Mission Possible Partnership were supportive of the Pledge containing a menu of options to allow for subnational and city-level commitments, not just national engagement. They hoped that this would also translate to market creation opportunities. Global Covenant of Mayors also said that implementation of the Pledge should comprise both technical assistance and funding support.

Global Covenant of Mayors also spoke of the **Cooling Sprint mission** which is to be announced at COP28. The mission has recruited 48 cities and will look at recruiting 250 more cities or subnational entities over 2023. Of the 48 cities participating so far, there are 10-12 that indicated cooling is a priority (mix of technical and nature-based solutions). One of the main themes that came out of IPCC 6 was a focus on blue infrastructure and the role of nature-based solutions. The mission is planning regional marketplace events to link cities as test beds of innovation solutions and cooling could be included in these events.

Rocky Mountain Institute/ Mission Possible Partnership would like to see how the Pledge will capture the spirit of continual innovation for climate impact. Under India's G20 Presidency, a technology showcase is being planned as a CEM side-event to demonstrate high-efficient cooling technology.

SEforAll stressed the importance of the Pledge capturing the human angle. **US DoE** highlighted that the Pledge could be plugged into the Empowering People Initiative.

COP28 UAE would like the Pledge to capture linkages between different sectors including renewables, food, medicine, productivity. **France** would like the Pledge to capture heat wave resilience and contain a Building Breakthrough angle.